

# Clan Chisholm Society



## Great War Centenary Project “every clansman remembered”



Sketches from the Trenches: Lt. MW Williams, 17Bn. Welsh Regiment



## Roll of Honour

Volume 111



# France August 1914 – April 1917

# Foreword

Clan Chisholm Society.

Introduction to WW1 Memorial volumes.

My great aunt Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm was naturally legendary in the family as I was growing up. A copy of 'The Cellar House at Pervyse' was to be found in our sitting room and often referred to. We were proud of her war-time reputation and of the many medals she had been awarded due to her work in WW1. She was of course also a loving aunt to my father, Chief Alastair.

Less well known was her beloved brother Uilean Hamish McUistean, my grandfather, who served during World War I in Palestine and Egypt. Uilean had resigned his position in the Trinidad Constabulary in 1915 and enlisted as a 2nd Lieutenant with the British West India Regiment. Photograph albums and other memorabilia from his time in Palestine reminded us of his war service.

World War One therefore, although distant in time, was a current topic of conversation within the family during my childhood and beyond. The scale of the 1914 - 1918 war and the huge loss of life was well known and the topic was and is covered in the educational curriculum in Britain. Both Mairi and Uilean returned to their families, so many did not.

Travelling through Belgium for the unveiling of a statue in Ypres to honour Elsie Knocker and Mairi's work and attending the nightly ceremony at the Menin Gate brought home to me even more so the sacrifice made by so many. The Chisholm clan is not a large one but there are many Chisholm names from around the world listed on the memorial showing all those still missing whose remains have not been found.

The Clan Chisholm Society which was founded in 1951 by Miss Mairi and my late father Alastair, has supported the creation of these memorial volumes to those Chisholms who fell in battle or died of their injuries later. I thank all those clansfolk who have contributed to the piece of work and especial thanks go to Robert Chisholm of New Zealand without whose dedication the memorial would not have been possible.

*Hamish*

Andrew Francis Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm



# About this book

This memorial booklet is a product of the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Forum, a discussion group open to all who share an interest in anything and everything related to Chisholm, with a heavy bias on Clan history, family histories, and Genealogies. 2014 saw the commencement of the centenary of the Great War, and we reflected initially on the remarkable courage of one of our Clan Chisholm Society Founders, Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm. Her story is well **told in many places, so it won't be repeated here, but in her memory we dedicate this commemorative series, and specifically this booklet, which catalogues the Chisholm lives lost in the West Flanders section of the Western Front.** In remembering Mairi, the Forum decided also to remember all those Chisholms who served and never returned. Those covered in the booklet are those whose names have been retrieved from Commonwealth and War Graves Commission Records. Regretfully we cannot cover many Clansmen who are sons of Chisholm mothers, as there is no easy way to retrieve that data. On some occasions, such a person who **has "Chisholm" as part of the name, gets captured by the search engine, and these people** have been included.

We have not been able to cover the great many Chisholms who served and did return, in many cases shattered in body and /or mind, but to them we acknowledge our respect. Likewise there would have been a courageous group of conscientious objectors; we can only sadly reflect that their views did not find favour with the politicians who lead the nations of Europe into a disaster of such magnitude that we are still suffering from the effects of the Great War. The defeat of the Russian Empire saw the rise of communism and the Soviet Union; the defeat of the German Empire gave rise to Nazism and a second world war; and the defeat of the Turkish Empire gave us the hodge-podge which we now have today in the Middle East.

This booklet is the third in a series of five proposed to commemorate the lives of our Chisholm clansmen who fell during the conflict. Previous volumes covered the theatres of Flanders and the Balkans/Middle East. Subsequent editions will cover the France from May 1917 till 1919, and those who are buried or commemorated on home soil. The memorial booklets would not have been possible without the information being available from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and its US counterpart. Of great value have been the personal archives made freely available by the Australian and Canadian governments. Many photos have been taken from internet sources, and an apology is offered in advance if any copyright has been infringed.

The format is chronological, listed in order of the date of death. Varying amounts of information concerning the fallen clansmen has been found. Great effort has been made to identify the family, and to note the parents and siblings. This is so that readers might identify one of their own family members. If that is the case, and the reader can provide further information, or a photograph, please get in touch.

If the family has been found in the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database, this has been noted on the commemorative page. Several families on the database have been extended, based on the information found during the research phase of the project. In many cases where a family is not found in the database, the Forum and the research files contain a sizeable cache of genealogical information, awaiting only an interested family member to get in touch and use

the information to create a family tree for inclusion on the Database.

In the same manner, if the soldier has a known link to a family which is part of the Clan Chisholm DNA Project, that information is shared.

Where there is a link to a family known to descend from a Clan Chief, this information is shown by the use of the Chisholm heraldic device. With one exception, these families are limited to what are known as the Lietre and Knockfin branches of the Clan. While we know from the DNA project that many more families descend from a Clan Chief or a Border Baron, we do not have accurate genealogical information to positively identify the link.

The project is an ongoing electronic project. This means that further information or photographs can be added if readers recognise their own family member, and submit the information. Readers are encouraged to assist the project in this manner.

The World War 1 centenary memorial project would not be possible with the assistance of many people, too many to mention all by name but among them are:

Bob Chisholm of Sussex, Forum Founder and Database Administrator, who has provided both genealogical and military information and whose vigilance ensures that enthusiasm does not override accuracy.

Alastair Chisholm of Hampshire, Forum master, who shares his wide knowledge of Strathglass genealogy, and who ensures the Forum is kept operational.

Anna Chisholm Dickinson, the sleuth of Spokane, who has helped track down many of the families concerned.

Ian Chisholm and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield also provide valuable assistance, and several other individuals have provided valuable information on specific families, including Val Chisholm-Perry who provided a personal copy of the book “**Catholics of Antigonish in the Great War**”.

Contact details for various Clan Chisholm projects associated with the World War One Centenary Remembrance Project are listed below.

Robert Chisholm (Auckland NZ) convenor of the WW1 Centenary Memorial Project Group.

**Clan Chisholm International Genealogical Forum:** Open to all. Registration required.

<http://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

**Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database.** Open to all members of Clan Chisholm Society, ask your branch secretary for the password. <http://www.clansman.info/index.php>

**Clan Chisholm DNA Project.** Open to all (testing fees apply) Help locate your family history by following the trail of the Y chromosome back in time. Clan Chisholm contains traces of all those who have invaded Britain, or attempted to, from days of Druids and Stonehenge, the Roman Empire, The Gaelic Invasion, The Angles and Saxons, the Norman Conquest, and the Spanish Armada, and then several New World additions as well. The project has been able to confirm the historically accepted account that the Chisholm Founder was of Norman origin.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Chisholm>

To offer support or further information regarding any serviceman, go to the

This Volume covers the 50 Chisholm casualties from 1914 through to April 1917 and represents approximately half of the casualties in France during the Great War. Losses were suffered at all times and in all places wherever the troops of the United Kingdom and the British Empire were stationed. The Western Front was a dangerous place to be at all times, and particularly when offensive action was the order of the day. The Battle of the Somme, in particular, took a heavy toll of Chisholms, with 15 lives lost. For many there are no known graves and so the names are recorded on memorials. At the Somme on the Thiepval memorial, there are six of our Clansmen, at nearby Vimy Memorial, are recorded the names of 3 Canadian Chisholms, and at Villers-Bretonneux, one NZ Chisholm in the Australian Infantry.

Elsewhere on the Western Front in France, the Loos Memorial in Pas de Calais, has 4 Chisholms.



Sausage Valley, Somme (Pozières)



Thiepval Memorial



Vimy Memorial



Loos Memorial



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

## Dulce et decorum est

*Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,  
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,  
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.  
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.*

*Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime. -  
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.*

*In all my dreams before my helpless sight  
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.*

*If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace  
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,  
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,  
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,  
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, -  
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est  
Pro patria mori.*



2nd Lt, Wilfred Edward Salter Owen, 5th Bn. Manchester Regiment. KIA 4 Nov 1918

# Roll of Honour

Name	Hometown	Date	Page
William Malcolm Chisholm	Sydney	27/08/1914	10
Roderick Chisholm	Peterhead	13/09/1914	11
James Chisholm	Hawick	23/10/1914	12
John Angus Chisholm	Stornoway	22/12/1914	13
V Chisholm	Wrekenton, Co Durham	06/02/1915	14
Charles Chisholm	Bedale, Yorkshire	10/03/1915	15
Archibald Chisholm	Stow, Midlothian	13/03/1915	16
Andrew Chisholm	Kirriemuir	09/05/1915	17
Alexander Chisholm	Newcastle on Tyne	17/05/1915	18
Alexander Chisholm	Galashiels	19/07/1915	19
Charles James Chisholm	Northampton	22/07/1915	20
Leslie Chisholm	Chesterfield	16/08/1915	21
Charles Chisholm	Stow	25/09/1915	22
Walter Chisholm	Sanquhar	25/09/1915	23
Robert Darling Chisholm	Edinburgh	28/09/1915	24
James Utermarck Chisholm-Batten	Thornfalcon, Sommerset	25/09/1915	25
William Chisholm	Glasgow	27/10/1915	26
J R Chisholm	Coventry	02/01/1916	27
Robert Chisholm	Carluke	02/01/1916	28
William Chisholm	Bournmoor, Co. Durham	29/04/1916	29
John Chisholm	Leith	01/07/1916	30
Alexander (Chummie) Chisholm	Durban	09/07/1916	31
James Chisholm	Glasgow	18/07/16	32

# Roll of Honour

Name	Last Residence	Date	Page
Stuart Chisholm	Inverness	18/07/16	34
Roderick Chisholm	Glasgow	19/07/16	35
Kenneth James Chisholm	Ealing	18/08/16	36
John Samson Chisholm	Barrabup, West Australia	31/08/16	37
William Turner Chisholm	London	01/09/16	38
George Chisholm	North Shields	03/09/16	39
Alfred Chisam	Yetlington, Northumberland	15/09/16	40
William Chisholm	Brandon, Manitoba	26/09/16	41
Donald Alexander Chisholm	Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan	08/10/16	42
Alexander (Alick) Chisholm	Edmonton, Alberta	09/10/16	43
William Chisholm	Lindsay, Ontario	27/10/16	44
Alexander Chisholm	Gorgie, Edinburgh	06/11/16	45
Gordon Douglas Chisholm	Peterborough	06/11/16	46
Robert John Chisholm	Dundee	11/11/16	47
David Chisholm	Edinburgh	13/11/16	48
Alexander Chisholm	Napanee, Ontario	19/11/16	49
Francis Chisholm Young	Cambridge	14/02/17	50
William Alexander Chisholm	Toronto	09/03/17	51
John Alexander Ross Chisholm	Glasgow	20/03/17	52
John (Jack) Chisholm	Barnet, BC.	29/03/17	53
James Chisholm	Llanbryde, Morayshire	09/04/17	54
George Roderick Chisholm	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	09/04/17	55
John Anderson Chisholm	Dunfermline	09/04/17	56

# Roll of Honour



Name	Last Residence	Date	Page
William Archie Chisholm	New Glasgow, NS	11/04/17	57
Colin Chisholm	Vancouver	14/04/17	58
Roderick Chisholm	Glasgow	20/04/17	59
Alick Chisholm	Knocknashalvaig	23/04/17	60
	End of France Part 1		



**H**E whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

The names of the members of  
Clan Chisholm  
listed on the preceding pages